

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR 10/12/83

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16 OCT 1981

Dear Senator Smith:

I am replying to your letter of September 5 to the President concerning the case of Raoul Wallenberg.

As you may know, the United States Government has been concerned over the fate of Raoul Wallenberg since the case first came to light at the end of World War II. We have taken every appropriate opportunity to ask Soviet authorities for a clarification on the Wallenberg case. The Soviet authorities have persisted in maintaining that Wallenberg died in 1947 but have provided no further details. When we received reports which indicated the possibility that Wallenberg might still be alive, we raised the matter with the Soviets on numerous occasions throughout 1979. They finally answered, formally and in writing, in February of 1980, stating that Wallenberg had died in July of 1947. They also informed the Swedish Government of this finding and indicated that they would have no further information on Wallenberg in the future.

The Wallenberg case remains a matter of concern for the United States Government, and we have continued our efforts to gain information regarding his fate. In December, 1980, at the Madrid CSCE Review Conference, the United States delegation voiced its support for the position of the Government of Sweden when the Swedish delegation urged renewed efforts to resolve the Wallenberg case. In addition, representatives from the American Embassy in Stockholm attended sessions of the hearing on the Wallenberg case held in Stockholm in January of this year. In April, Ambassador Max Kampelman, speaking in Madrid at a CECE plenary session, stated that the Wallenberg case was one that "will not go away." Ambassador Kampelman noted that the refusal of the Soviets "to appreciate the human factor which is symbolized by the Wallenberg case is stimulating even further interest." He stated that "the tragic mystery of Raoul Wallenberg is unnecessarily becoming a divisive international issue."

On October 5, the President signed into law a Congressional resolution making Raoul Wallenberg an honorary American citizen and requesting the President to take all possible steps to ascertain from the Soviet Union his whereabouts and to secure his release. This action demonstrates to the Soviets the high esteem in which Wallenberg is held by the American people and

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The Honorable
Paul S. Smith,
North Carolina State Senate.

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our deep collective concern over his fate. Let me assure you that, in accordance with this resolution, the Department of State will continue to express concern over the Wallenberg case at every appropriate opportunity. Let me also assure you that we intend to cooperate with the Government of Sweden and all other interested parties in a persistent effort to obtain information that will clarify the fate of this brave man.

We continue to seek ways to accomplish this purpose. Raoul Wallenberg not only effected the lives of thousands directly, but his efforts indirectly contributed to the saving of thousands of additional lives. Faced with his spirited defense of the lives of innocent human beings, officials hesitated to enforce orders which would have condemned even more. Wallenberg's life is a testimony to the courage of the human spirit in defense of freedom. We are hopeful effective means to shed more light on his fate and to honor his cause can be found.

sincerely,

/s/ JES

James F. Schumaker
Bilateral Relations
Office of Soviet Union Affairs

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